Sikh/Kashmiri militants, who have been indulging in such subversive actions from time to time. Police has registered a case which is under investigation.

(d) Central Government has been regularly sensitising the State Governments to undertake appropriate preventive measures by way of gathering of tactical intelligence, close surveillance of vulnerable places, regular patrolling of sensitive areas and installations and anti-sabotage checks etc. Special intelligence inputs received from time to time are shared with the State Governments.

Ghising's Speech for Separate Country

1420. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on 5th September, 1999 in a public meeting at Darjeeling. Mr. Subhas Ghising declared his intentions to form separate country with separate army, currency and national anthem; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against such seditious speech?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per available information, Shri Subash Ghisingh, Chairman, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC), at a public meeting in Darjeeling on October 5, 1999, had said that the Central Government should place the DGHC under the VI Schedule of the Constitution, give it full autonomy and fix its jurisdiction.

Government is keeping a close watch over the developments.

Social Restructuring in Ladakh

1421. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister that the State Government had been engineering social restructuring in Ladakh to make it a Muslim dominant region and to accord Union territory status; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the memorandum so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) in its memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 5.11.1999 had *inter-alia* drawn attention to the influx of a large number of Muslims from Kargil and Kashmir into the Ladakh region with a view to change the demographic complexion of the region.

According to a communication from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the Buddhists of Leh are voicing their demand for stopping the alleged conversion of Buddhist girls to Islam. The matter actually owes its origin to the instances of marriages contracted by Buddhist girls with Muslim boys on two occasions in the recent past. No coercion has been used and the parties have entered into the marriage on their own free will. In one case the girl has been restored back to her parents. The local administration is seized of the matter and necessary steps being taken to keep a close watch on the situation.

Terrorist Groups in Assam

1422. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the terrorist groups like DHD, KNV-KPF, PRIPO etc.. operating in the district of North Cachar hills and Karbi Anglong in Assam creating fear and tensions in the minds of the masses; if so, the details of effective measures being taken by Government to tackle the problem; and

(b) whether Government have initiated the process of peaceful solution through negotiations with these outfits operating in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government are aware of the criminal activities of groups like DHD, KNV-KPF, etc. in the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong Districts. Government have taken various steps to check criminal activities of these groups. These include deployment of Para-Military Forces, coordinated action by Army, Para-Military Forces and State Police in these districts.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has made several appeals to all such groups to come forward for unconditional talks.